



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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Maryland Man Pleads Guilty to Burglary and Assault In Attack Against 19-Year-Old Woman in Her Home

-Victim Was Attacked While Bathing Her One-Year-Old Son-

WASHINGTON - Tikale Easter, 19, of Forestville, Maryland, has pled guilty to charges that he entered a young woman's home with the intent to assault her, as well as a weapons offense stemming from another incident, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced today.

Easter pled guilty on July 11, 2011, in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia to burglary, simple assault, and carrying a pistol without a license. The Honorable Ronna L. Beck scheduled sentencing for September 27, 2011. Easter faces up to 30 years in prison.

According to the government's evidence, the first incident took place on the evening of October 10, 2010. The victim, Easter's ex-girlfriend, was at her home in Southeast Washington, bathing her one-year-old son. Easter tapped on the victim's bedroom window and demanded that she allow him into her home. When the victim refused, he entered through the kitchen window. Easter kicked open the bathroom door and grabbed a cellphone from the victim's hand. He then punched the victim repeatedly in the face and body as she held her son in her arms. Easter eventually grabbed the child from the victim and put him in another room. The victim ran to use her house phone to call for help, but Easter dragged her by the arms and continued to beat her.

During the incident, a family member arrived and told Easter to leave. Easter refused and called out to a friend to bring him his gun. At that point, the victim, with her son in her arms, fled the home along with the family member. As they ran away, Easter got into a sport utility vehicle, and three gunshots were fired at the group from the vehicle. Luckily, no one was hit.

In the second incident, police responded on December 18, 2010 to a drug complaint at a residence in the 5100 block of Fitch Street SE. When police arrived, Easter was among a group of individuals stopped for suspected drug possession. Easter tried to flee, but was caught, and police recovered a fully-loaded pistol, with an extended magazine, from his waistband.

In announcing the plea, U.S. Attorney Machen praised those who worked on the case from the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), including Detective Daniel Lewis, who led the investigation. He also acknowledged the work of Sgt. Brett Parsons; Seventh District Officers Walter Smith and Jenny Alvarenga; Sixth District Officers Darin Booher and Christopher Clayton; Crime Scene Officers Tameka Pringle, Michael Penkert, and Daren Brake, and Fingerprint Specialist Clinton Hall.

U.S. Attorney Machen also acknowledged the efforts of those who worked on the case from the U.S. Attorney's Office, including Victim Advocate Lezlie Richardson, Paralegal Troy Griffith, Legal Assistant Nicole Lee, and Summer Intern Rosanne Niforos. Finally, he recognized Assistant U.S. Attorney Lindsay Suttentberg, who indicted the case, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Angela Pegram Saffoe, who prosecuted the case.

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